

Recycling Public Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Location: DNREC Lewes Facility, 901 Pilottown Road, Lewes, DE 19958

Members present: BJ Vinton, Chairman (CSWSC)
Paul Bickhart (Recycling Industry)
Mike Parkowski proxy for Pasquale Canzano (DSWA)
Dick Cecil (DE Association of Counties)
Marjorie Crofts (DNREC)
Sheba Vine proxy for George Danneman (Soda Beverage Industry)
Michael Fusca (Alcohol Beverage Industry)
Tom Houska (Waste Management, Inc.)
Basil Kollias (DE Chamber of Commerce)
Marianne Cinaglia (DeEASI)
Kelly Davis (Educator, DelTech-Owens Campus)
Julie Miro Wenger (Delaware Food Industry Council)
Kyle Sonnenberg (DE League of Local Governments)

Members absent: Brenna Goggin (Delaware Nature Society)
Carrie Leishman (Restaurant Industry)

Non-members present: Don Long (DNREC) Patrick Carter (DE Division of Revenue)
Allen Thienpont (Waste Industries) Stan Mills (City of Rehoboth Beach)
Gary Stabley (Private Citizen) Nancy Marker (DNREC)
Heather Pellrin (DNREC) Bob Ziegler (Republic Services)
Bob Barrish (Private Citizen) Bill Miller (DNREC)
Tracy Sargent (DNREC) Jeff Montgomery (The News Journal)

BJ Vinton called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 P.M.

Public Comments – Stan M. complimented DNREC on the publication of the How To Recycle Guide. BJ also stated that he attended a meeting with approximately 50 Dupont employees and they were very happy with the guide. Marj C. thanked the staff at DNREC and DSWA for putting it together.

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 26, 2011

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved after minor corrections.

Bottle Fee Collection Update

Patrick C. from the Division of Revenue (DOR) said that, to date, about \$2.7 million has been collected regarding the bottle recycling fee but the target was \$4.5 million. The DOR is working on improving fee collections including working to resolve confusion surrounding gross receipts exemptions which do not apply to the recycling fee. In November 2010, letters were sent to retailers explaining the fee and how to pay. A little over 6,500 booklets of coupons were mailed out and in March of 2011, automated telephone calls helped refine the list of relevant bottle retailers. Post cards were sent out to retailers where the automated calls did not go through. The DOR recently hired a seasonal auditor who is going on the road to investigate retailers. About 1,000 retailers are reporting of about 3,700 that are licensed. BJ is very confident that fee collections will be refined. Patrick C. said not sure if estimate provided by the industry

was actually valid. Tom H. asked and Patrick C. guessed that about 90% of retailers subject to the fee are small businesses. BJ said the industry suggests not to underestimate the quantity in small business.

Annual Report

The RPAC Annual Report was discussed at length and unanimously approved with modifications.

Outreach and Education

Bill M. mentioned the Recycling How to Guide and other outreach that has been done. With the multi-family recycling deadline coming in January 2013, DNREC is working to organize workshops and toolkits to help multi-family complex managers implement recycling programs. He mentioned that there will be a grant cycle to help fund multi-family recycling, but details are yet to be determined. BJ suggested having some information in Spanish. Bill M. asked anyone with specific contacts or ideas to please let DNREC know. Marianne C. asked and Mike P. confirmed that the list of haulers is current on DSWA website.

Recycling Market Update

Paul B. read an article about recycling prices, mostly paper prices, plummeting. The reason for the price collapse is likely due to China. The prices took a hit but not as bad as 2008. He shared that sorted office paper went down \$100/ton, cardboard is down \$35/ton, and newsprint is down \$50/ton. Metals have maintained their value. Mike P. said that single-stream material has dropped 55-60%.

Old/New Business

Marj C. informed the council that Bill M. replaced Shannon S. as recycling manager DNREC. She also volunteered to draft a revision to the bylaws with a provision for the chair to designate a person to run the meeting in his absence. Mike P. let everyone know there was a ribbon cutting at the Delaware Recycling Center (DRC) on November 16, 2011 for a pilot Styrofoam (packing peanuts the exception) recycling program. The drop-off program at the DRC will be open on regular business hours. He announced an electronic goods collection and paper shredding event on December 3, 2011 in Rehoboth Beach. Also, DSWA is negotiating with two separate companies for operations at the DRC, one is interested in operating a construction and demolition debris recycling center and the other is interested operating a single-stream material recovery facility.

Additional Public Comments

None at this time

Next Meeting

December 21, 2011 at the DelDot Felton/Farmington Room, 800 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19903

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned around 3:20 p.m.